OPERA AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE
17 November 2026

Stellar cast announced for *The Pirates of Penzance* long awaited return to the Sydney Opera House



Top L-R: Ben Mingay, David Whitney and John Longmuir. Bottom L-R: Angela Hogan, Antoinette Halloran and Samantha Hargreaves

Opera Australia has assembled a cast of opera stars and Gilbert & Sullivan specialists for the highly anticipated return of *The Pirates of Penzance*, opening the Sydney Winter Season in July 2027.

Returning to the Sydney Opera House for the first time in 17 years, Gilbert & Sullivan aficionado Stuart Maunder's acclaimed production will feature a cast led by **Ben Mingay** as the Pirate King, **David Whitney** as Major-General Stanley, **John Longmuir** as Frederic and **Samantha Hargreaves** as Mabel, with **Antoinette Halloran** and **Angela Hogan** sharing the role of Ruth.

Ben Mingay will reprise his highly acclaimed signature role, drawing on a career that spans *The Magic Flute*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Carousel* and *The Phantom of the Opera*. Opposite him, celebrated stage and screen performer David Whitney makes his role debut as Major-General Stanley, fresh from acclaimed Sydney seasons of *The Merry Widow* and *My Fair Lady* and bringing decades of musical theatre experience to Gilbert & Sullivan's famously fast-talking comic creation.

Making her Opera Australia debut, Filipino Australian soprano Samantha Hargreaves has rapidly emerged as one of Australia's most exciting young artists. Having recently completed her studies at London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama and attracted international attention with Longborough Festival Opera and the Royal Ballet and Opera, Samantha makes her homecoming and role debut as Mabel alongside one of Australia's most accomplished tenors, John Longmuir as Frederic.

The role of Ruth will be shared by two acclaimed performers, with mezzo-soprano Angela Hogan making her role debut in the first six performances before Antoinette Halloran takes over the remainder of the season.

Rounding out the cast, Opera Australia bass **Richard Anderson** will be playing the role of Sergeant of Police joined by baritone **Leon Vitogiannis** as Samuel, mezzo-soprano **Ruth Strutt** as Edith and OA Young Artist **Sidra Nissen** as Kate. Leading the Opera Australia Orchestra will be award-winning Australian conductor James Pratt in his first outing with Opera Australia.

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Last staged in Sydney in 2010, Maunder's colourful production is set to delight audiences with its blend of clever wordplay, rollicking melodies and comical chaos. Featuring Richard Roberts' whimsical sets and Roger Kirk's vibrant costumes as well as Elizabeth Hill-Cooper's choreography, the production captures all the charm that has made *The Pirates of Penzance* one of the world's most enduring comic operettas.

1 July – 7 August 2027 | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

Creatives

Conductor **James Pratt**
Director **Stuart Maunder AM**
Choreographer **Elizabeth Hill-Cooper**
Set Designer **Richard Roberts**
Costume Designer **Roger Kirk**
Lighting Designer **Trudy Dalgleish**
Sound Designer **Michael Waters**

Cast

Pirate King **Ben Mingay**
Major General Stanley **David Whitney**
Frederic **John Longmuir**
Mabel **Samantha Hargreaves**
Ruth **Angela Hogan (1-9 Jul), Antoinette Halloran (15 Jul - 7 Aug)**
Samuel **Leon Vitogiannis**
Sergeant of Police **Richard Anderson**
Edith **Ruth Strutt**
Kate **Sidra Nissen**

Opera Australia Orchestra

Opera Australia Chorus

Performance information

Evenings at 7:30pm

July 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 15, 17, 21, 27, 29, 31

Aug 3, 5, 6, 7

Matinees at 12:00pm

July 22, 24

Aug 4

Matinee at 12:30pm
July 28

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 10 minutes including one interval.

Performed in English with surtitles

Bookings

Adult tickets from $79 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office
(02) 9318 8200
www.opera.org.au

Joan Sutherland Theatre,
Sydney Opera House

Originally produced by Opera Australia. This season is presented in association with Victorian Opera.

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